

CLAIMS

Claim 1. A seating/storage add-on section comprising:

a base having front and rear portions;

a plurality of wheels supporting the base;

5 a seating assembly mounted on said base; and

coupling means for releasably holding at least one wheel of

a shopping cart.

Claim 2. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 1, wherein
said coupling means comprises a non-rigid connector.

10 Claim 3. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 1, wherein
said coupling means is an adjustable holster.

Claim 4. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 1, wherein
said coupling means comprises at least one receptacle.

15 Claim 5. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 1, wherein
said at least one wheel of the shopping cart includes two wheels
of the shopping cart, and said coupling means comprises first and
second receptacles.

20 Claim 6. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 5, wherein
said coupling means further comprises receptacle adjusting means
for selectively adjusting the distance between said first and
second receptacles.

Claim 7. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 6, wherein said receptacle adjusting means comprises first and second adjustable arms; and each of said adjustable arms includes inner and outer telescoping elements.

5 Claim 8. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 5, wherein each of said first and second receptacles comprises side walls, a bottom wall, and an interior region defined by said side and bottom walls; said bottom wall having first and second generally planar surfaces adjacent to said interior region; and said first and second surfaces disposed at an obtuse angle.

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15 Claim 9. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 8, wherein a respective wheel of the shopping cart resting on the bottom wall in each of the first and second receptacles contacts at least one point on the first surface and at least one point on the second surface of the bottom wall.

Claim 10. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 5, wherein each of said first and second receptacles comprises side walls, a bottom wall, and an interior region defined by said side and bottom walls; and said bottom wall is curvilinear.

20 Claim 11. A seating/storage add-on section for use with a shopping cart having a frame supported by a plurality of cart wheels and a cart receptacle mounted on the frame, the seating/storage add-on section comprising:
a base having front and rear portions;

a plurality of wheels supporting the base;
a seating assembly mounted on said base; and
a non-rigid coupling means for engaging a shopping cart that
allows relative movement between the add-on section and the frame
5 of the shopping cart.

Claim 12. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 11,
wherein said non-rigid coupling means comprises an adjustable
holster.

10 Claim 13. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 11,
wherein said non-rigid coupling means comprises at least one
receptacle.

Claim 14. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 11,
wherein said non-rigid coupling means comprises a connector for
engaging the cart wheels.

15 Claim 15. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 11,
wherein said non-rigid coupling means comprises first and second
receptacles.

20 Claim 16. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 15,
wherein said non-rigid coupling means further comprises a
receptacle adjusting means for selectively adjusting a distance
between the first and second receptacles.

Claim 17. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 16,
wherein said receptacle adjusting means comprises first and

second adjustable arms and, each of said first and second adjustable arms includes inner and outer telescoping elements.

Claim 18. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 15,
wherein each of said first and second receptacles comprises side
walls, a bottom wall, and an interior region defined by said side
and bottom walls; said bottom wall having first and second
generally planar surfaces adjacent to said interior region; and
said first and second surfaces disposed at an obtuse angle to
each other.

10 Claim 19. The seating storage add-on section of claim 18,
wherein a respective cart wheel resting on the bottom wall in
each of the first and second receptacles contacts at least one
point on the first surface and at least one point on the second
surface of the respective bottom wall.

15 Claim 20. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 15,
wherein each of said first and second receptacles comprises side
walls, a bottom wall, and an interior region defined by said side
and bottom walls; and said bottom wall is curvilinear.

Claim 21. A seating/storage add-on section for use with a
20 shopping cart having a frame supported by a plurality of cart
wheels and a receptacle mounted on the frame, said
seating/storage add-on section comprising:
a base having front and rear portions;
a plurality of wheels supporting the base;

a seating assembly mounted on said base; and
a non-rigid connector for engaging the wheels of the
shopping cart.

Claim 22. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 21,
5 wherein said non-rigid connector comprises an adjustable holster.

Claim 23. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 21,
wherein said non-rigid connector comprises first and second
receptacles and receptacle adjusting means.

Claim 24. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 23,
10 wherein said receptacle adjusting means comprises first and
second adjustable arms attaching said respective first and second
receptacles to the base, such that said first receptacle is
disposed on one side of the base and said second receptacle is
disposed on said opposite side of the base; and each of said
15 first and second adjustable arms includes inner and outer
telescoping elements.

Claim 25. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 23,
wherein each of said first and second receptacles comprises side
walls, a bottom wall, and an interior region defined by said side
20 and bottom walls; said bottom wall having first and second
generally planar surfaces adjacent to said interior region; said
first and second surfaces disposed at an obtuse angle to each
other.

Claim 26. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 25,
wherein a respective cart wheel resting on the bottom wall in
each of the first and second receptacles contacts at least one
point on the first surface and at least one point on the second
5 surface.

Claim 27. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 24,
wherein each of said first and second receptacles comprises side
walls, a bottom wall, and an interior region defined by said side
and bottom walls; and said bottom wall is curvilinear.

10 Claim 28. A seating/storage add-on section for use with a
shopping cart, wherein the shopping cart includes a receptacle
mounted on a cart frame, and a plurality of cart wheels which
includes a pair of rear wheels supporting the cart frame, the
seating/storage add-on section comprising:

15 a base having a front portion and a rear portion;
 a plurality of wheels supporting the base;
 a seating assembly on said base; and
 a non-rigid connector for releasably holding the rear wheels
of the shopping cart, wherein said non-rigid connector is
20 disposed on the front portion of said base;
 a brake mechanism comprising a brake pad and a foot
actuator, said brake mechanism further comprising locked and
unlocked positions;
 a storage area; and
25 a passenger leg room area;

said base includes a frame and platform, wherein said platform is mounted on the frame at the front portion of the base; and said storage area is located on the rear portion of the base frame;

5 said seating assembly comprises a seat support, a seating portion and a handle;

 said non-rigid connector comprising first and second receptacles and receptacle adjusting means for selectively adjusting the distance between the first and second receptacles;

10 each of said first and second receptacles comprises side walls, a bottom wall, an interior region and an open end, said side walls extend generally upwardly from said bottom wall to define the interior region;

 said receptacle adjusting means comprises first and second adjustable arms, wherein one end of said first arm is attached to said first receptacle and an opposite end of said first arm is attached to a left side of said platform; one end of said second arm is attached to said second receptacle and an opposite end of said second arm is attached to a right side of said platform such that each of said first and second receptacles are respectively disposed on left and right sides of said base;

 each of said first and second adjustable arms comprises inner and outer telescoping members and a set screw to lock the inner and outer telescoping members in selective engagement;

25 said plurality of wheels includes a pair of rear swivelable casters attached to the rear portion of the base and a pair of front casters attached to the front portion of the base;

said platform is disposed on said frame and has an upper surface that is generally planar;

 said leg room area is disposed above the platform between the seat base and the non-rigid connector;

5 said seat support comprises a plurality of tubular legs that extend upwardly from the rear portion of the base;

 said handle is attached to said seat portion and is adapted for gripping by a user;

 wherein to attach the shopping cart to the add-on section
10 each rear wheel of the shopping cart is placed in a respective first and second receptacle with the rear end of the shopping cart being adjacent to the front portion of the base;

 when attached the add-on section and shopping cart are maneuvered by the handle, wherein the frame and receptacle of the
15 shopping cart can move independently of said add-on section; and

 wherein to detach the shopping cart from the add-on section,
the rear wheels of the shopping cart are removed from the
respective first and second receptacles.

Claim 29. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 28,
20 wherein each of said bottom walls comprises first and second surfaces adjacent to the interior region, said first and second surfaces are generally planar and said first surface is disposed at an obtuse angle to said second surface, such that a cart wheel resting on the bottom wall contacts at least one point on said
25 first surface and at least one point on said second surface.

Claim 30. The seating/storage add-on section of claim 28,
wherein each of said bottom walls is curvilinear.